

In page 4, third paragraph, please replace with the following:

--Referring to FIG. 1, layout 10 includes driver/receivers 12 and 14 coupled together using conductive path 16. Further included are driver/receivers 18 and 20, driver 22 and receiver 24. Driver/receiver 18 is coupled to driver/receiver 20 using conductive path segments 26 and 28. At the intersection of conductive path segments 26 and 28, a conductive path segment 30 is coupled thereto. Driver 22 and receiver 24 are coupled to conductive path segments 32 and 34 respectively. Conductive path segments 32 and 34 are further coupled to conductive path segment 30.--

10 In page 5, third paragraph, please replace with the following:

--FIG. 3 is a flowchart depicting a method of the present invention.--

In page 7, first paragraph, please replace with the following:

--If, at step 56, a larger driver was not available, the method proceeds at block 70
15 where a buffer is placed at a location which would increase signal levels on the net. Locations where drivers are placed may be thought to be locations where the previous net ends and a new net begins. Thus, a buffer is placed at a location which would cause the conductive path between the driver and the buffer to be shorter than would otherwise have occurred. Since the conductive path is shorter, there is less susceptibility to noise.--

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IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows. All pending claims after this amendment are listed below for the convenience of the Examiner. Claims amended by the Amendment are indicated as such. Claims cancelled in the Amendment are indicated as such.